



# BITS OF GOLD

## Montana Talking Book Library

Regional Library of the National Library Service  
For the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
(NLS/BPH)

Volume 105, Number 1

2005

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### MAB SPONSORS NFB—NEWSLINE SERVICES

The Montana Association for the Blind (MAB) has sponsored a 2005 subscription for the National Federation of the Blind's (NFB) **Newsline** with the hope of securing more funds for future annual fees.

**Newsline** is a touch-tone telephone, menu-driven service accessible through this number: 1-888-882-1629. The phone call is toll free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

No computer is needed and no special training. A synthesized voice will welcome you to NFB **Newsline** and then offer these options: 1. NFB **Newsline**, 2. Local Channel, 3. Montana newspapers, (The **Great Falls Tribune** is on **Newsline** now and there are plans to add other Montana newspapers). 4. All newspapers, (U.S. News, Newsweek, etc.), or 5. Magazines, (New Yorker, Economist, and AARP).

All Montana Talking Book Library patrons are eligible for this service. Call us to sign up. Once we sign you up, a letter will be sent to you from NFB **Newsline** assigning you with a User ID number and a password. This takes about two weeks. You can also go direct to the NFB **Newsline** website: <http://www.nfb.org/newsline1.htm> and complete their online application.

### STATE OF MONTANA CHANGES ITS DOMAIN NAME

On December 31, 2005, all Montana state agency domain names will be changed from @state.mt.us to @mt.gov. Both domains may be used until then. During this year, e-mail and website addresses will be updated. The changes for the Montana Talking Book Library are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

**LIBRARIAN'S LOG: from the desk of Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian****Update on Lobe Library Project:**

As mentioned previously, we are in the process of testing the Otis digital player and downloadable digital books in partnership with Audible.com and four other Talking Book Libraries. If you are interested in participating, please call Janet Hunter or Christie Briggs at 1-800-332-3400.

**Legislative Library Day Update:**

On January 31st, we hosted the Legislative Library Day for all new and returning legislators to visit our library and become acquainted with our services and whom we serve. The Montana Association for the Blind (MAB) was also well represented. We had the highest attendance yet and experienced a very successful event! I'd like to thank all staff, volunteers, and patrons who helped make this successful.

**2005 MAB CONVENTION:**

"True Vision Goes Beyond Sight" is this year's theme of the MAB's Capital City Chapter 2005 Convention May 13th-15th in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Inn. An all day Free Public Symposium will be held on Friday, May 13th. Panel speakers will address community and education resources, technology, and employment opportunities for people with visual disabilities. Dr. Richard Hopkins will be the featured speaker on "Macular Degeneration".

On Saturday, May 14th, more panels and ophthalmologists will be highlighted. The ophthalmologists who will be speaking include: Dr. Tim McInnis and Dr. Kenneth Younger from Bozeman and Dr. George Stern and Dr. Brian Sippy from Missoula. Topics to be covered include: "Diabetes", "Corneal Transplants & Corneal Diseases", "Age Related Macular Degeneration", and "Low Vision".

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) will have an expert speaker talk on "Technology" both on the Friday and Saturday panels as well as the Saturday evening banquet. Norma Beatty—Ashby, Montana, Commentator and Author—will talk about her book "Movie Stars and Rattlesnakes" as the guest speaker at the Saturday luncheon.

MAB will be sending program information and registration forms at the end of March. If you have any questions please contact: Jim Hopkins at 406-442-2144 or Peggy and Del Barnekoff at 406-458-9111.

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**DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS FROM 2004**

The Montana Talking Book Library staff appreciates the thoughtfulness of those who contributed to our library in 2004. Acknowledgments are sent to all donors. Their generosity enables us to purchase equipment and provide programs that our budget does not cover. Our patrons will enjoy many years of pleasure from these gifts. When making a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please include the name of the person for whom the tribute is made and the name and address of those to be notified of your tax-deductible gift. Many thanks and blessings to the following contributors:

**DONATIONS:**

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**BEQUEST IN HONOR OF:**

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**Bonnie Briggs**—Diane Gunderson, Phyllis Herbert, Gloria Purcell

**Thomas Brown**—Dorothy & Loyal Baertsch, Marilyn & Wendell Burrowes, De Lane Newgard

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**Thelma & Ray O'Donnell**—Kelly Selph

**Norman O'Neill**—Sally & Manley Briggs

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**MEMORIALS IN HONOR OF:**

**Jerry Paul**—Judy & Tom Lehman, Eloise & Wayne McNally, Mission Valley  
Chapter—MAB, June Peterson

**Mavis Pawson**—Edna & Oliver Smith

**Gary Redman**—Northwest Chapter—MAB

**Charlotte Ryan-Bigelow**—Donna Ryan

**Mary Anne Story**—Theresa & Doug Kirby

**Les Walter**—Linda & Tom Hutchison, Lena Walter

**Tom Walter**—Linda & Tom Hutchison

**ELECTRONIC TEXTS**

The National Library Service has provided us with a list of sources for electronic texts. These online texts are in plain, digital audio, and digital Braille formats. Most of these can be read online or downloaded to read offline. Some of the sites have subscription fees and some are free. Please contact the individual sites' Webmaster if you should have any questions about any of the sites listed either by the phone number or e-mail address provided. The following are two samples of sites listed:

**Classic Reader.com**

<http://www.classicreader.com/>

All books are in HTML format; includes a plain-text format that eliminates most graphics. This site contains free literature for which copyright protection has expired. Eight categories are available: fiction and nonfiction, children, classical, drama, poetry, Shakespeare, and short stories.

**Page by Page Books**

<http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/>

These books can be read online one page at a time. This site offers hundreds of free classic books that are in the public domain. It includes United States historical documents and presidential inaugural addresses.

If you would like a copy of this list, please call us at 1-800-332-3400.

**TIPS FOR BETTER SERVICE**

If you receive magazines (these will be in a box just like your books) from MTBL, you need to return the issue sent to you before you will receive the next issue.

When you mail in your book requests, please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number.

**RECENT TITLES FROM THE MONTANA RECORDING PROGRAM**

**MCB 711** **Big Sky Café & Other Schools I've Attended**  
by Jack Bogut; Reader—Ed Canty

Jack Bogut a popular morning radio personality, writer, and storyteller, touches that common thread that binds all of us together. So don't be surprised when you find a part of you in most or all of these tales.

**MCB 757** **The American Cowboy** by Will James; Reader—Mark Lowry

This story begins with the first cowboy in the 1830's and spans through three generations of cowboys.

**MCB 759** **Too Poor To Move But Always Rich** by Jim Sargent;  
Reader—Richard Murphy

Jim Sargent tells about day-to-day life growing up on a homestead, how his family emigrated from Norway, and their years before he was born...up to their passing away.

**MCB 766** **The Case of the Kippered Corpse** by Margaret Scherf;  
Reader—Charles Hicks

Alice Welsh is murdered at her party in a Manhattan nightspot. The main characters stay at Mrs. Moultrie's New Jersey estate and some are subsequently murdered. There are many suspects, but a surprise ending.

**MCB 769** **The Greatest Cattle Drive** by Paul L. Wellman;  
Reader—Richard Murphy

A fictional account of an almost incredible cattle drive, achieved by Nelson Story and his men in 1866. Nelson Story starts from Texas with a herd of 1,000 cattle and a crew of 24 men facing many hardships, Indians, rivers, and weather before reaching the gold camps of Montana.

**To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own.**  
**--Ann Morrow Lindbergh**

**FROM THE RECORDING BOOTH:**

Do you like mysteries? Have you ever listened to any of the mystery books that have been recorded by the Montana Talking Book Library Recording Program? If you haven't then here are a few of the Montana authors that have written mysteries: Peter Bowen, J.T. Flynn, A.B. Guthrie, Thomas McGuane, Sandra West Prowell, Margaret Scherf, and Leonard Schonberg. Call your Readers' Advisor and ask about these authors.

Diane Gunderson, Recording Program Director

**SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS...**

Audrey Anderson volunteers on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. She makes the phone calls to you our patrons that have overdue books. Audrey calls about either renewing your books or getting them returned so that other patrons can enjoy the books. She is a patron of the Montana Talking Book Library, a member of the Montana Association for the Blind (MAB), and is also very active with the Summer Orientation Program that is sponsored by MAB every year. Audrey appreciates everyone's patience and understanding regarding the phone calls she makes to our patrons.

We would also like to introduce and welcome our new volunteers: Gloria Craig-clerical, Page Davis-reader/monitor, Bonnie Gebhardt-clerical, Sharon Henderson-reader/monitor, Ruth O'Connell-inspection, Becky Poore-circulation, Janet Kennedy-machine sanitizer, JoAnn Roullier-reviewer, Pat Saindon-monitor/clerical, Janice Six-review committee, and Effie Uhlman-inspection.

Diane Gunderson, Coordinator of Volunteer Services

**PATRON PICKS**

<b>RC 21617</b>	<u>Dicey's Song</u> by Cynthia Voight, Grades 6-9
<b>RC 27233</b>	<u>Seventh Son</u> by Orson Scott Card
<b>RC 30004</b>	<u>Heart Mountain</u> by Gretel Ehrlich
<b>RC 55359</b>	<u>Darling Daughters</u> by Debbie Macomber
<b>RC 55854</b>	<u>Downriver: A Barnaby Rudge Novel</u> by Richard S. Wheeler
<b>MCB 483</b>	<u>Queen of the Legal Tender</u> by Eileen Clarke

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**FREEDOM: THEME CHOSEN FOR 2004-2005**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) continues its “We the People” initiative for 2004-2005. This initiative began in 2002 when President George W. Bush announced it on Constitution Day. NEH feels it is essential to study history if you wish to preserve freedom. Their goal is to share with all Americans the significant events and themes that occurred in our nation’s history. This year the NEH chose freedom as the theme for 2004-2005. To achieve their goal they have developed a recommended reading list for students of all ages. The following is a sample of their list:

**Kindergarten to Grade 3**

RC 32528	<u>Paul Revere’s Ride</u> by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
RC 38551	<u>The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses</u> by Paul Goble

**Grades 4 to 6**

RC 27538	<u>To Be a Slave</u> by Julius Lester
RC 33494	<u>The House of Dies Drear</u> by Virginia Hamilton
RC 47613	<u>Ben and Me</u> by Robert Lawson

**Grades 7 to 8**

RC 22927	<u>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</u> by Elizabeth George Speare
RC 26336	<u>Across Five Aprils</u> by Irene Hunt
RC 34963	<u>Fahrenheit 451</u> by Ray Bradbury

**Grades 9 to 12**

RC 13491	<u>My Antonia</u> by Willa Cather
RC 26659	<u>Miracle at Philadelphia</u> by Catherine Drinker Bowen
RC 38959	<u>Animal Farm</u> and <u>1984</u> (RC 34268) by George Orwell

**Adult**

RC 50552	<u>Eyewitness to the America’s West</u> by David Colbert
RC 56506	<u>A Patriot’s Handbook</u> by Caroline Kennedy
RC 57350	<u>The March Up: Taking Baghdad with the 1st Marine Division</u> by Bing West



**CALL 2-1-1 FOR HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES INFORMATION**

The Federal Communication Commission has set aside the number 2-1-1 for Health and Human Services referrals. It is up to each state to independently develop 2-1-1 Call Centers throughout their state. These centers will have to apply to provide these services and comply with federal standards.

For the past 15 years, there have been four Information and Referral Call Centers providing a similar type of service for their communities: First Call for Help in Kalispell and Missoula, The Help Center in Bozeman, and Voices of Hope in Great Falls. The Montana 2-1-1 Coalition hopes to build on their efforts and develop more 2-1-1 Call Centers to encompass the entire state.

DPHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) has proposed a bill—Senate Bill 428—to create a statewide implementation plan with standards and oversight structures. They hope this will guarantee consistency in services provided and cover every county in Montana.

The 2-1-1 Call Centers will assist callers with information and referral for the following types of services: basic human needs (food and shelter), employment services, physical and mental health resources, volunteer opportunities, and donations. They will also provide referrals that will offer support to children, youth, families, older Americans, and persons with disabilities.

Each agency applying for the 2-1-1 number should have financial stability, community support, ability to comply with National 2-1-1 standards, a relationship with other agency providers, a record of providing a similar type of service, and a list of which counties it will cover. At this time, anyone can apply for the 2-1-1 number in Montana. Those of you who live in Mineral, Missoula, or Ravalli counties can use the 2-1-1 number now. **IF** the legislation passes and the Montana 2-1-1 Coalition receives the additional funding they are seeking, possible implementation for 2-1-1 Call Centers throughout the rest of the state will be July 2007.

Please contact Susie McIntyre if you have any questions, offers to volunteer, or donations for the Montana 2-1-1 Coalition:

Susie McIntyre, 2-1-1 Coordinator, Voice of Hope, Box 6644, Great Falls, MT 59406  
1-406-771-8648, ext 3370 or [susiemcintyre@sofast.net](mailto:susiemcintyre@sofast.net).

**VISUALLY HANDICAPPED RESOURCES****ASSISTIVE DEVICES:**

Blindskills, Inc.	P.O. Box 5181 800-860-4224	Salem, OR 97304-0181 <a href="http://www.blindskills.com">http://www.blindskills.com</a>
Sighted Electronics	69 Woodland Ave 800-666-4883	Westwood, NJ 07675 <a href="http://www.sighted.com">http://www.sighted.com</a>
Solutions for Humans	365A Tesconi Cir 800-953-9262	Santa Rosa, CA 95401 <a href="http://www.sforh.com">http://www.sforh.com</a>

**ASSOCIATIONS:**

The American Council of the Blind	1155 15th St NW Ste 1004 800-424-8666	Washington, DC 20005 <a href="http://www.acb.org">http://www.acb.org</a>
American Foundation for the Blind	11 Penn Plaza, Ste 300 800-232-3044	New York, NY 10001 <a href="http://www.afb.org">http://www.afb.org</a>
National Association for the Visually Handicapped	3201 Balboa St 415-221-3201	San Francisco, CA 94121 <a href="http://www.navh.org">http://www.navh.org</a>
National Federation of the Blind	1800 Johnson St 410-659-9314	Baltimore, MD 21230 <a href="http://www.nfb.org">http://www.nfb.org</a>

**AUDIO BOOKS (a Fee Service):**

Audible.com	65 Willowbrook Blvd 888-283-5051	Wayne, NJ 07470 <a href="http://www.audible.com">http://www.audible.com</a>
Overdrive, Inc.	Valley Tech Center, Ste C 8555 Sweet Valley Dr 216-573-6886	Cleveland, OH 44125 <a href="http://www.overdrive.com">http://www.overdrive.com</a>

**MORE RESOURCES...****Braille Books:**

The Braille Bookstore	88 Captain Morgans Blvd 800-987-1231	Nanaimo, BC V94 6R1 Canada <a href="http://www.braillebookstore.com">http://www.braillebookstore.com</a>
Seedlings Braille Books	P.O. Box 51924 800-777-8552	Livonia, MI 48151-5924 <a href="http://www.seedlings.org">http://www.seedlings.org</a>

**Software/Hardware:**

Freedom Scientific	11800 31st Court North 800-444-4443	St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1805 <a href="http://www.freedomscientific.com">http://www.freedomscientific.com</a>
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**EXTRA LARGE PRINT BOOKS**

For those interested in large print books, here is a site that customizes them for you. Huge Print Press (<http://www.hugeprint.com>) will individualize any book. The customer chooses the book, the binding, and the font size (all larger than 14-point). Contact them by phone at 866-484-3774 or by e-mail at [info@hugeprint.com](mailto:info@hugeprint.com).

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**THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE HOLIDAYS**

May 30	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day

Kind words can be short and easy to speak,  
but their echoes are truly endless.  
--Mother Theresa

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**Montana Talking Book Library**  
**1515 East Sixth Avenue**  
**PO Box 201800**  
**Helena, MT 59620-1800**

**Free Matter**  
**for the Blind**

**Address Service Requested**

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**PHONE NUMBERS:** 1-800-332-3400

**PHONE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm  
(in Helena) 406-442-2064

**MTBL WEBSITE:** <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>  
**WEBOPAC SITE:** <http://www.klasweb.mt.gov>

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